

Kathmandu -- The United States, through USAID's Office of Food for Peace, has provided US \$7.5 million in food assistance to the UN World Food Programme's (WFP) operation supporting the peace process and livelihoods of Bhutanese refugees and conflict-affected people in Nepal.

"This contribution demonstrates our long-standing commitment to the welfare of the Nepali people who continue to suffer from the effects of years of conflict," said USAID Mission Director Beth S. Paige. "The funds will go to the World Food Programme, working in Nepal to provide more than 7,000 tons of staples that include rice, vegetable oil and peas to the vulnerable poor."

With a total budget of US \$107 million, the peace and recovery operation of the World Food Programme will provide food and livelihood support to more than 2.7 million people in Nepal who continue to struggle to rebuild their lives after years of civil war and in the face of rising food prices. As a part of this effort, the U.S. contribution will provide in-kind food aid to over 277,000 people (including Bhutanese refugees) and the essential cash resources needed to assist the operation.

"As we recognize World Food Day today, we must not forget that millions of people around the country are likely to go to bed tonight without a meal," says Richard Ragan, WFP Country Representative. "This is totally unacceptable in a 'New Nepal,' so it is imperative that we commit ourselves to ensuring that all citizens have access to healthy and nutritious food."

WFP's peace and recovery activities will be implemented in 33 of the most affected districts of rural Nepal. Programme activities include rehabilitation and construction of critical infrastructure, return and rehabilitation packages, and civic education training.

The food commodities, purchased as part of continuing U.S. assistance for development priorities in Nepal, are due to arrive in time for winter. USAID is closely monitoring the humanitarian situation in Nepal and will continue to provide assistance as needed.

Including this new commitment, the U.S. Government has contributed 15,830 metric tons of food and commodities worth US \$8.9 million in the past year to the World Food Programme in Nepal.

U.S. Gives \$7.5 Million to Feed Conflict-Affected Populations in Nepal

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